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Oppose

Election judges are in critical shortage across the state. This bill limits the pool of election judges and increases the administrative burden on county Election Administrators by making it more difficult and time-consuming to find and train election judges. Election judges are trained each even numbered year in May, and must have that training in order to work for the next 2-year cycle. Counties may lose long-time trained judges, and could spend time training judges who will not be eligible to work come election day.

Under current law, the political parties are required to give lists of potential judges to the county. The county uses the lists to make sure that election judges are as evenly divided among the parties as possible.

As HB 20 correctly notes, there is currently no prohibition on family, friends or other third parties from collecting and returning ballots to the election administrator.

If a voter chooses to hand their ballot over to a third party to be returned to the election office, it is incumbent on the voter that to trust person.

- a. Voter drives aren't the only example of third party ballot collectors. People choose to have their secured ballot returned by their spouse, family members, friends and neighbors – trustworthy sources who make it possible for them to vote.

- b. This bill takes away a convenient avenue for voters to return their ballots to the local election administrator.
- c. Absentee ballots must be received at the county election office or polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks are not accepted.

Voters may also check the status of their ballot and when it was received by checking the My Voter Page on the SOS Website.